

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 03245 210752Z POSS DUPE
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 DODE-00 /043 W
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P R 210647Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3392
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 3245

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN PFOR KS US
SUBJ: KOREAN PRESS REACTION TO U.S. RELAXATION OF BAN ON TRAVEL
TO NORTH KOREA

1. KOREAN VERNACULAR PRESS VARIES BETWEEN CONCERN OVER AND
CRITICISM OF RECENT U.S. RELAXATION OF RESTRAINTS ON TRAVEL
OF RESIDENT ALIENS TO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES WITH WHICH U.S.
HAS NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

2. SEVERAL PAPERS RAN EDITORIALS APRIL 18 OR 19 ON OUR
RELAXATION NORTH KOREAN TRAVEL BAN. TONGA ILBO EXPRESSED
GENERAL FEAR THAT THOSE WITH AMBIGUOUS ATTITUDES, THOSE
WORKING IN TRADE, THOSE BORN IN NORTH, OR SECOND OR THIRD
GENERATION KOREANS MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO VISIT NORTH AND
SAID IT WOULD BE EASY FOR THEM TO FALL UNDER "DEVILISH
INFLUENCE" OF NORTH. RECALLING, HOWEVER, THAT SOME
PROFESSORS HAVE RETURNED TO U.S. FROM P'YONGYANG MORE
STRONGLY ANTI-COMMUNIST, WRITERS CONCLUDE THAT SUCH VISITS
MIGHT NOT BE ENTIRELY DISADVANTAGEOUS AND CALL ON ROKG
TO STRENGTHEN ITS LONG-TERM POLICIES TOWARDS KOREANS IN
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U.S. BY DEVELOPING KOREAN ASSOCIATIONS IN U.S., EXPANDING
VISITS TO KOREA, AND INCREASING PUBLIC INFORMATION
ACTIVITIES ABOUT ROK.

3. ENGLISH LANGUAGE KOREA TIMES GOES FURTHER IN CRITICIZING
U.S., QUESTIONING HOW U.S. COULD MAKE SUCH MOVE TO ENCOURAGE
NORTH, PARTICULARLY AT TIME OF OTHER DIFFICULTIES IN

ROK/US RELATIONS.

4. CHOSON ILBO TOOK THIRD TACK. NOTING BASIC DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SURPRISING LIMITS ON THEIR ACTIVITIES VISITORS TO P'YONGYANG HAVE FOUND AND FREEDOM OF TRAVEL ENJOYED BY KOREANS FROM JAPAN VISITING IN ROK, WRITERS WARN THAT NO VISITORS TO NORTH WILL BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH PRIVATE PURPOSES, SUCH AS VISITING FREELY WITH FRIENDS. IN SUM, EDIT WARNS AGAINST FRICTIONS WHICH COULD ARISE AMONG KOREANS IN U.S. AS RESULT OF SUCH VISITS AND CONCLUDES WITH HOPE NO ONE WILL GO.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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